

Audition Sides - Sam, Walter, Deb, Emily, Michael

(#5 – WHATTA YA THINK THAT IS? (PART 2) begins as BUDDY rushes offstage.)

SCENE THREE

(The Greenway Press offices are on an upper floor of the Empire State Building. A secretary, DEB, is seated at a reception desk. WALTER HOBBS is talking to SAM, a member of the OFFICE STAFF.)

START

SAM

We got a problem, Mr. Hobbs. *Jingles The Jolly Christmas Puppy* is tanking in every bookstore in the country.

WALTER

Why?

SAM

Because two whole pages are missing from the last chapter.

WALTER

What?

SAM

Without them the end of the book makes no sense.

WALTER

(calling to DEB)
Deb!

DEB

Yes, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

Coffee! Now!

DEB

Right away.

(EMILY and twelve-year-old MICHAEL enter.)

EMILY

Hi, darling.

MICHAEL

Hi, Dad.

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EMILY

Ready to go?

WALTER

Go where?

EMILY

Christmas shopping, remember?

WALTER

I can't. I'm swamped.

MICHAEL

Dad, it is well documented that the children of workaholics are prone to self-esteem issues.

(WALTER stares at EMILY, baffled. DEB stifles a laugh.)

WALTER

Could we please continue this delightful conversation over here?

END

(MICHAEL, EMILY and WALTER move away from Deb's desk. BUDDY enters.)

BUDDY

Excuse me? I'm here to see a Walter Hobbs. I'm Buddy the Elf.

DEB

Buddy the Elf? Oh, what a riot! Who sent you?

BUDDY

Santa.

DEB

Santa?!

BUDDY

Uh-huh, from the North Pole.

DEB

I'm sure Mr. Hobbs will be delighted to meet you, but he's in a meeting right now. Would you mind waiting for a few minutes?

BUDDY

Sure.

(BUDDY sits.)